GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:223
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
TALKS ON KASHMIR PROBLEM
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmiri Pandits have urged the Government to include them in negotiations talks for resolving the Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of Kashmiri Pandits outside Kashmir and since when they are living; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their return to their State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in respect of parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha starred Question No.223 for reply on 08.08.2000

(a): Some newspaper reports in this regard have come to notice.

(b): Having welcomed the move towards peace made by a Senior Hizbul Muzahidin (HM) leader during a press conference on 24th July 2000 and having taken cognizance of the support extended to the peace initiative by the people of J&K, as also recognising the need for restoration of peace in J&K, the Government extended the offer to HM leadership to come overground and establish contact with the Union Home Secretary to discuss modalities necessary for initiating a dialogue and preparing grounds for restoration of peace. This process has started.

The Government would like to invite all militant groups and political leaders to come forward to restore peace and normalcy in the State of J&K.

(c): As per available information, 22,048 families migrated from J&K to other States including NCT of Delhi since outbreak of terrorism in 1990-91 and thereafter. Also, 31490 families migrated to Jammu.

(d): Government of J&K is in the process of finalising an action plan for early and safe return of the migrants to the valley. Separately, a social interaction programme has been initiated under which some migrants have visited the valley so as to pave the way for return to the valley.

As per available reports, the State Government is engaged in consultations with various migrant organisations and camps for finalisation of the action plan.